

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 12, 14 and 15 remain pending.

Claims 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by "Mallary et al, Partee and Takeura, et al." Without admitting to the propriety of the rejection, or the Examiner's comments on pages 2-5 of the Office Action, the Applicants have adopted the Examiner's kind suggestion to amend claims 12 and 15 as above, to overcome the rejection.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

To the extent necessary, the Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. NIT-320-02).

Respectfully submitted,

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